

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *University of Richmond Law Review* is proud to present its 2017 Symposium Issue: Defining the Constitution's President Through Legal and Political Conflict. The *Law Review* hosts this annual discussion in an effort to assemble the nation's leading voices to discuss current, critical issues in the law with fellow students and the greater Richmond community. This year's symposium focused on how the American presidency has been shaped under the Obama and Trump Administrations through clashes with other branches of the federal government, as well as state attorneys general.

The American founders developed one of the greatest political documents in human history when they wrote the Constitution. Despite its meticulous efforts to ensure that power is checked across the federal government, however, the limitations put in place to restrict each branch of government are as hotly debated today as ever. For some time now, our national dialogue has focused particularly on the power of the President. Concerns are heightened as a result of many actions by the Trump Administration, but concerns were also high during the Obama Administration. Accordingly, we believe it prudent to pause and consider separation-of-powers questions that are of great concern to White House observers today.

In recent years, state attorney general offices have played an increased role in challenging executive actions on the federal level. The individual mandate under President Obama's signature healthcare law and President Trump's controversial immigration orders limiting travel from numerous majority-Muslim countries are two salient examples. It is important to stop and take note of this shift, which will likely continue to shape national policy moving forward.

On October 27, 2017, the *Law Review* hosted an outstanding assembly of scholars and practitioners to explore these topics. Former Attorney General of Virginia, Mark L. Earley, Sr., offered the Keynote Address, in which he reflected on the rise of state attorneys general in shaping national policy. From there, our panelists discussed an array of topics including: sources of law for the constitutional definition of executive power, scope of executive power, congressional checks on executive power, and state responses to executive power.

The *Law Review* would like to thank all of the authors who were gracious enough to memorialize portions of these conversations for publication. These individuals include: Eric J. Segall, Tuan N. Samahon, Henry L. Chambers, Jr., Elbert Lin, and Jonathan Shaub. We are also incredibly grateful for the participation of Aditya Bamzai, Neal E. Devins, Michael J. Gerhardt, and Trevor S. Cox, who offered their insights at the event. Additionally, we would like to thank Kevin Walsh, Jud Campbell, Carl Tobias, and Erin Collins from the University of Richmond School of Law faculty who served as panel moderators.

Planning a successful symposium takes an incredible amount of preparation, and we could not have done it without the support of the broader Law School community. In particular we would like to thank Mary Ruth Walters and Emily Cherry for their constant support in bringing this event to fruition. Their institutional support was invaluable. We would also like to thank Carl Hamm for his technological support, making this event accessible online to an even broader audience. Finally, this event would not have been possible without the support of the *Law Review* executive board, whose willingness to go above and beyond their roles to support this effort was remarkable.

The *Law Review* is particularly grateful to Dean Wendy Perdue for her continued leadership in the Law School and her constant willingness to support our efforts, as well as our faculty sponsors John Douglass and Carl Tobias for their guidance and mentorship.

We would especially like to extend our thanks to our Legal Publication Coordinator, Glenice Coombs. Glenice is a constant source of energy and wisdom, and we benefit from her experience more than we know. Thank you for the countless hours you have poured into the journal and our lives.

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Finally, I would like to offer a personal thanks to Kevin Walsh, Jud Campbell, Carl Tobias, and Corinna Lain for their support in crafting this discussion. It was a tremendous pleasure to discuss these ideas with each of you along the way.

The *University of Richmond Law Review* hopes that you will enjoy the Volume 52 Symposium Issue: Defining the Constitution's President Through Legal and Political Conflict. We invite you to join us in this timely conversation.

Andrew E. Hemby
Symposium Editor